the cheque book, the custody of securities and any other articles that the customer wishes to leave with his bank ? At present the ease and quickness with which these routine matters of banking are carried out in England are developed to a point which is the envy of foreign visitors. How would it be if every cashier of every bank were converted by the process of nationalisation from the kindly, business-like human being as we know him into the kind of person who ministers to our wants behind the counters of the Post Office ? As it is, we go into our bank, to present a cheque in order to provide ourselves with cash for the daily purposes of life; the cashier looks at the signature, recognises the customer, hands him over the money. If that cashier became a Government official how long would it take him to verify the signature, to see whether the customer really had a balance to his credit, and finally furnish him with what he wanted ?

It is obvious that the change suggested by Mr Webb, though it might work, could only work to the detriment of the convenience of the public, and his hopeful view that the elimination of the profits of the shareholders would mean that these profits would go into the pockets of the community in the form of cheapened facilities for banking customers is an ideal largely based on the assumption, that has

so often been proved to be incorrect, that the State can do business as well and as cheaply as private enterprise. It is much more likely that after a few years* time the public would find the business of paying in and getting out its money a very much